

WE CLAIM:

- 1 1. A slider for a disk drive, the slider comprising:  
2 a slider body including a slider body outer surface;  
3 an inductive write head including main and return poles; and  
4 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the ground pad in  
5 electrical communication with the main and return poles for electrically grounding the  
6 main and return poles.
- 1 2. The slider of Claim 1 wherein the main and return poles are electrically connected.
- 1 3. The slider of Claim 1 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the main  
2 pole, the slider ground pad is in electrical communication with the return pole through the main  
3 pole.
- 1 4. The slider of Claim 1 further includes a first thin film resistor layer disposed upon the  
2 main pole towards the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical  
3 communication with the first thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is in electrical  
4 communication with the return pole through the main pole.
- 1 5. The slider of Claim 1 further includes a read head having top and bottom shields, the top  
2 shield is disposed adjacent the return pole, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical  
3 communication with the top and bottom shields.
- 1 6. The slider of Claim 5 wherein the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical  
2 communication with the top and bottom shields through the main and return poles.
- 1 7. The slider of Claim 6 wherein the return pole is electrically connected to the top shield.
- 1 8. The slider of Claim 5 wherein the read head includes a second thin film resistor layer  
2 disposed between the top and bottom shields, the top shield is electrically connected to the

3 bottom shield through the second thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is disposed in  
4 electrical communication with the bottom shield through the top shield.

1 9. The slider of Claim 5 further includes a ground via formed in the slider body, the ground  
2 via is disposed in electrical communication with the slider ground pad and the top and bottom  
3 shields, the main and return poles are in electrical communication with the slider ground pad  
4 through the top and bottom shields.

- 1    10.    A disk drive comprising:
- 2                    a disk drive base;
- 3                    an actuator arm rotatably coupled to the disk drive base; and
- 4                    a slider distally coupled to the actuator arm, the slider including:
- 5                            a slider body including a slider body outer surface;
- 6                            an inductive write head including main and return poles; and
- 7                            a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the slider
- 8                    ground pad in electrical communication with the main and return poles for
- 9                    electrically grounding the main and return poles.
- 10    11.    The disk drive of Claim 10 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the
- 11    actuator arm.

1 12. A slider for a disk drive, the slider comprising:

2 a slider body having a slider body outer surface;

3 a read head having top and bottom shields; and

4 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad  
5 in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields for electrically grounding the  
6 top and bottom shields.

1 13. The slider of Claim 12 wherein the top and bottom shields are electrically connected.

1 14. The slider of Claim 12 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the top  
2 shield, the slider ground pad is in electrical communication with the bottom shield through the  
3 top shield.

1 15. The slider of Claim 12 further includes an inductive write head having main and return  
2 poles, the return pole is disposed adjacent the top shield, the slider ground pad is disposed in  
3 electrical communication with the main and return poles.

1 16. The slider of Claim 15 further includes a first thin film resistor layer disposed upon the  
2 main pole towards the slider body outer surface, the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical  
3 communication with the first thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is in electrical  
4 communication with the return pole through the main pole.

1 17. The slider of Claim 15 wherein the slider ground pad is disposed in electrical  
2 communication with the top and bottom shields through the main and return poles.

1 18. The slider of Claim 15 wherein the return pole is electrically connected to the top shield.

1 19. The slider of Claim 15 wherein the read head includes a second thin film resistor layer  
2 disposed between the top and bottom shields, the top shield is electrically connected to the  
3 bottom shield through the second thin film resistor layer, the slider ground pad is disposed in

- 4 electrical communication with the bottom shield through the top shield.
- 1 20. The slider of Claim 15 further includes a ground via formed in the slider body, the ground  
2 via is disposed in electrical communication with the slider ground pad and the top and bottom  
3 shields, the main and return poles are in electrical communication with the slider ground pad  
4 through the top and bottom shields.

1     21.     A disk drive comprising:

2             a disk drive base;

3             an actuator arm rotatably coupled to the disk drive base; and

4             a slider distally attached to the actuator arm, the slider including:

5                 a slider body including a slider body outer surface;

6                 a read head having top and bottom shields; and

7                 a slider ground pad disposed at the slider body outer surface, the slider  
8             ground pad in electrical communication with the top and bottom shields for  
9             electrically grounding the top and bottom shields.

10    22.     The disk drive of Claim 21 wherein the slider ground pad is electrically connected to the  
11    actuator arm.